

the country where women have changed their communities is so important, not only to elevate more of our history and celebrate women's contributions to it, but to inspire the next generation of artists and change-makers.

The Edith Farnsworth House is a cultural gem of the 14th District of Illinois that would not have been possible without the vision and commitment of Dr. Edith Farnsworth. I am proud to see this landmark rededicated in her name so that her legacy can be appreciated for generations to come.

WE NEED TO RETURN TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, what would you do with \$1,300? Would you go on vacation? Save for your kids' college? Maybe buy some new appliances?

Well, under the Democrats' new America last energy policies, most Americans have little choice but to spend \$1,300 extra on gas to fill up their cars over the course of the next year. Today, the price of gas hit an all-time high.

Democrats want to blame surging prices on Russia. But the truth is, their out-of-touch policies are why we are here in the first place.

Remember what happened on day 1 with one-party rule? The President canceled the Keystone Pipeline, and then he stopped new oil and gas leases on Federal lands and waters. Then he gave the green light to Putin's pipeline. These knee-jerk decisions had damaging effects up and down the supply chain.

Now, Democrats are creating a fake choice between sanctioning Russia and lowering gas prices. In their twisted thinking, Americans must feel the pain at the pump in order to punish Putin. It doesn't have to be this way.

When Democrats' one-party rule started last year, they inherited an energy independent America. Average prices at the pump were \$2.53 a gallon. Oh, do we wish we had those days again.

It is still possible to get back to that, which is why Republicans offered a bill last week that would approve the Keystone Pipeline, fast track oil and gas production on Federal lands and waters and remove all hurdles to exporting American natural gas.

Do the American people wonder what happened when we offered that? Two hundred twenty Democrats voted against it.

Then we offered targeted solutions to the immediate crisis, like approving the six natural gas export permits that are being held up by the Department of Energy. Just approving those six permits could increase U.S. natural gas exports by 25 percent.

But Democrats refused to listen. They think our Nation's future is better with leaving our resources in the ground, even if that requires us to buy oil from Iran or Venezuela and batteries from China.

It is obvious which party is championing clean, affordable American energy and which party has given up on it. It is interesting that American natural gas is 41 percent cleaner than Russian natural gas. Why wouldn't you want that to go to Europe and everywhere else?

If we want to lower prices and protect the environment, we must prioritize American energy independence.

What is worse, it is not just the Biden administration; it is complete throughout the Democrats' administration, for those who are in governorships as well. Just take a look at my home State, Madam Speaker, California.

Now, the United States imports from Russia 209,000 barrels of crude per day. That is 76.3 million barrels of crude per year. Of that, California imports from Russia 50,265 barrels of crude per day. In fact, California imported twice as many barrels of oil from Russia in 2021 than from Canada. So that means this money went to Putin to pay for his war.

Just as the Biden administration chose to stop the Keystone XL pipeline, apparently Governor Newsom thinks it is better to buy oil from Russia than from Canada. California domestic production was 374,000 barrels of crude per day in 2021. That has decreased under Gavin's administration, 89,000 barrels of crude per day less than in 2018.

If you take the analysis, looking at the data, if California rolled back the Newsom/Biden regulations that are crippling oil production in California, California could more than offset its use of Russian crude and then some. The United States could offset 43 percent of its dependence on Russian crude if California produced its full capacity.

You see, we don't have to be where we are. If the Democrats would change their policies of harming America and harming the environment by buying more Russian oil and gas, we wouldn't be where we are today. The prices would be lower, there would be more Americans working, and the world would be safer.

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate President Biden and his administration following February's job report.

678,000, that is the total number of jobs created last month. But these are not just any type of jobs. These jobs

are good-paying jobs that are giving Americans the dignity of a good paycheck.

In the last 13 months, 7.4 million jobs have been created, and unemployment has been slashed from 6.4 percent to 3.8 percent. When the President took office, over 18 million people were receiving unemployment benefits. Today, only 2 million people remain.

The bottom line, Madam Speaker, is we are seeing the best economy for American workers in decades, with people getting higher wages, better benefits, and better jobs across the board.

Our national deficit has also seen improvement. Under President Biden's watch, the deficit fell by \$360 billion last year. This is the first deficit decline in more than half a decade. Better yet, our Nation is on track to cut the deficit even more this year. Biden's plan of action will make sure we continue our path to building a better America.

But building a better America requires much more than only economic success. It also requires healthy communities. I am proud to share that America has had much success on the public health front during Biden's first year.

In my home State of Texas, only 10 percent of the population was fully vaccinated this time last year. Today, 60 percent of the entire population is fully vaccinated in Texas. On top of that, 21 percent of the population have received a booster shot.

In short, Madam Speaker, our Nation is recovering, and we are powering through the challenges COVID-19 created.

As we continue to recover from COVID-19 and rebuild the economy, we also must invest in our infrastructure. Investing in roads, bridges, and public transportation is critical. Shockingly, in America, one in three U.S. bridges need repairs or replacement. Biden has a plan for that, too.

There are 4,000 infrastructure projects already planned, alongside 65,000 miles of highway and 1,500 bridges scheduled to be repaired.

But it is not only highways and bridges that need repairs and upgrades. Our ports need improvements as well. In my home area, the Port of Houston secured \$142,500,000 in new funding because of the Biden boom.

In Houston, the transit authority, METRO, also received more than \$137 million in Federal funds to strengthen local public transportation.

The best part, Madam Speaker, this is only the beginning. I am truly excited that we are really accomplishing much for the American people as we work in partnership with President Biden and his boom. We truly are building a better America for generations to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT DANIEL M. MCBRIDE, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from